'Plot Probe Role Small'

DA Labels Gurvich as Double Agent

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District Attorney Jim Garrison today accused private detective William Gurvich of acting as a double agent while he was working for Garrison on the DA's probe of the Kennedy assassination.

Garrison said Gurvich had been given only limited information about the investigation after he discovered the detective was having meetings with a representative of the National Broadcasting Company. NBC produced an unfavorable documentary on the probe.

Friday it was reported by NBC that Gurvich told the late President's brother, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, that Garrison's investigation has "no basis in fact" and "no material evidence."

"I AM SURE THAT almost everyone will recognize Mr. Gurvich's statement as the latest move from the eastern headquarters of the establishment to attempt to discredit our investigation into the true facts of President Kennedy's assassination.

"It becomes increasingly

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apparent that elements of the federal government are absolutely desperate in their attempt to prevent the people of this country from finding out what really happened in Dallas.

"It will be noticed that we now are experiencing two forms of counterattack from the forces defending continued concealment. First, there is occurring a closely timed coalition of major news media and other cooperative agencies, seeking to create the impression that the assassination is a closed matter and anyone who raises questions is either sinister or misguided. Second, there is a tremendous amount of economic pressure being brought to bear in the government's effort to smother our investigation.

"OF COURSE, IF the truth about President Kennedy's assassination had been brought out it would not be necessary

to continue to conceal from the people hundreds of essential documents as well as other vital pieces of evidence concerning the assassination.

"A possibility that this evidence may be brought to light showing that there was a conspiracy — a fact which elements of our federal government have apparently well known all along is behind the increasingly frantic counter measures coming from the Washington-New York area.

"If we are so far off the track, then why is there such an organized effort being made to discredit the investigation before the trial? If we are not in possession of facts showing what really happened in Dallas, won't that be made perfectly plain at the trial?

"WITH REGARD to the curious actions of Mr. Gurvich — first in Washington and then in a secret conference with Sen. Robert Kennedy and finally in the news centers of the East — a few comments of clarification appear to be in order.

"Mr. Gurvich has never been at any time chief investigator for this office, as apparently represented himself during his secret trip to Washington and New York, nor has he ever been placed on the payroll of this office as an investigator.

"SOME MONTHS AGO, Mr. Gurvich, who operates a night watchman service, appeared out of the blue and offered his assistance to our investigation.

"After a few months, he just as quickly disappeared from view. We assumed that he became dissatisfied when he was made neither chief investigator nor a paid member of the staff.

"It should be noted that the chief investigator of this office during the course of this investigation has been officer Louis Ivon, a member of the New Orleans Police Department, assigned to this office.

"MR. GURVICH'S role in the investigation was principally concerned with regard to photographic work, and in fairness to him it should be said that his photographic work was very good.

"He was assigned a limited amount of investigative work.

"One of Mr. Gurvich's increasing complaints, however, was that he felt that he was not being given enough information about the investigation itself. One of the reasons we did not give him all of our information was that we soon learned that he was having meetings with Mr. Walter Sheridan, a former federal investigator now working for the National Broadcasting Co.

"FROM THAT TIME on, Mr. Gurvich's assignments were limited to photography, chauffeuring and other technical work of a limited nature until he faded out of view about six weeks ago.

"As a practical matter, therefore, Mr. Gurvich has had no connection whatsoever with the staff for at least six weeks.

"I do not see how he can 'resign' when he has ceased to be a part of the investigation for so long, but apparently this is what they told him to do.

"I do not condemn Mr. Gurvich. I am sorry to see that he is willing to lend himself to the transparent effort to keep hidden the truth about the assassination.

"I PRESUME THAT when he says that the members of my staff do not have a professional approach that he means they cannot be bought.

"If that is the case, I am glad that they are amateurs, and I am confident that they will remain that way.

"It is because they are amateurs and because there is not enough money or power in this country to corrupt them, that we are going to work to expose the entire truth of the assassination to the people of this country."